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ABSTRACT

Examination of dropout trends in New York City for 1987-88 reveals the following: (1) the annual dropout rate was 7.5 percent for the high schools, and 8.4 percent system-wide; (2) the estimated 4-year dropout rate was 26.8 percent for the high schools, and 29.7 percent system-wide; (3) the 1987-88 4-year high school dropout rate was 5.7 percentage points lower than the 1984-85 rate, 1.1 percentage points lower than the 1985-86 rate, and 0.5 percentage points higher than the 1986-87 rate; (4) the 1987-88 4-year system-wide dropout rate was 5.6 percentage points lower than the 1984-85 rate, 1.0 percentage points lower than the 1985-86 rate, and 0.5 percentage points higher than the 1986-87 rate; (5) compared to 1986-87, there were 1.3 percent more dropouts from day high school, with the increase attributed to students who entered retrieval programs during the 1987-88 school year and dropped out in the same year; (6) there was an 8.6 percent increase in the number of students dropping out of retrieval programs; and (7) there were 8 percent fewer dropouts from middle schools and 16 percent fewer dropouts from special schools. The annual dropout rates and the estimated 4-year dropout rates were calculated for the following ethnic/racial groups: (1) Alaskan Native/American Indian; (2) Asian/Pacific Islander; (3) Hispanic; (4) Black; and (5) White. The distribution of dropouts, and the total high school enrollment of these racial/ethnic cohorts are also included. Data are presented on 13 tables. Appendices contain a list of procedures, admission and discharge codes, a history of dropout accounting in New York City, dropouts and graduates from New York City high schools, dropouts from New York City high schools by dropout category, and annual dropout percentages for each New York City high school. (PJ)

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OREA Report

ACCOUNTABILITY SECTION REPORT

The Annual Dropout Report
1987-88

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ACCOUNTABILITY SECTION REPORT

The Annual Dropout Report
1987-88

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April, 1989

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ANNUAL DROPOUT REPORT 1987-88

HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW

Since 1978, the New York City Board of Education has issued an Annual Dropout Report, providing information on dropouts during the previous school year and estimating a four-year dropout rate based on that information.

Although the Board issues another report using the cohort method to count dropouts (used this year in the The Cohort Report on the Class of 1988), the Annual Dropout Report continues to be issued because it conforms to State Education Department requirements and permits the dropout rate to be placed in an historical persective.

The inclusion, for the second year, of ethnic/racial data in this report is a major addition to the ongoing study of the dropout rate. The ethnic/racial analyses rely on data provided by individual schools. In 1986-87 schools reported the ethnicity/race of 81.2 percent of the students who dropped out in that year; in 1987-88, this improved to 93.3 percent.

THE 1987-88 DROPOUT RATE

- The annual dropout rate was 7.5 percent for high schools and 8.4 percent system-wide.
- The estimated four-year dropout rate was 26.8 percent for high schools and 29.7 percent system-wide.

ANALYZING TRENDS

- The 1987-88 four-year high school dropout rate was 5.7 percentage points lower than the 1984-85 rate, 1.1 percentage points lower than the 1985-86 rate, and 0.5 percentage points higher than the 1986-87 rate. The 1987-88 four-year system-wide dropout rate was 5.6 percentage points lower than the 1984-85 rate, 1.0 percentage points lower than the 1985-86 rate, and 0.5 percentage points higher than the 1986-87 rate.
- Compared to 1986-87, the number of dropouts from day high schools increased by 1.3 percent with the increase attributed to students who entered retrieval programs during the 1987-88 school year directly from a day high school and then dropped out in the same year.
- Overall, there was an 8.6 percent increase in the number of students dropping out of retrieval programs. There were, however, 8 percent fewer dropouts from middle schools and 16 percent fewer dropouts from special schools.

ETHNICITY/RACE OF THE DROPOUT POPULATION

- The annual (one-year) dropout rates and the estimated four-year dropout rates for the five ethnic/racial groups are presented below:

Ethnic/Racial Group	Dropout Rate	
	One-Year (actual)	Four-Year (estimated)
Alask.Nat/Am. Ind.	5.1%	18.8%
Asian/Pac.Isld.	4.0	15.2
Hispanic	9.1	31.8
Black	6.8	24.5
White	5.2	19.2

- The ethnic/racial distributions of dropouts and total high school enrollment are compared below:

Ethnic/Racial Group	Percentage of Total H.S. Enrollment	Percentage of All Dropouts
Alask.Nat/Am. Ind.	0.1%	0.1%
Asian/Pac.Isld.	8.0	4.7
Hispanic	29.5	39.1
Black	39.9	39.2
White	22.5	16.9

AGE, GENDER, GRADE

- Almost one-fourth of the dropouts were 18 years old and in ninth or tenth grade, when they dropped out.
- Males accounted for 56 percent of the dropouts, but only 50 percent of the active students.
- Only 2.7 percent of dropouts were on grade for their age compared with 50.4 percent of the students still enrolled.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1978, the New York City Board of Education has issued an *Annual Dropout Report*, providing information on students discharged as dropouts during the previous school year, and estimating a four-year dropout rate based on those statistics.

This report is similar to dropout reports issued in previous years. As in the *1986-87 Annual Dropout Report* issued in May, 1988, dropout rates have been computed for the major ethnic/racial groups represented in the New York City public schools. The ethnic/racial analyses are not without methodological problems: they rely on retrospective information provided by staff of individual schools, and data were not available for 6.7 percent of the students who dropped out during the 1987-88 school year. Related studies, however, indicate that the findings are sound, despite missing data.

A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH TO COUNTING DROPOUTS

Last year the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment* (OREA) prepared two reports that addressed the citywide dropout rate. In addition to the *1986-87 Annual Dropout Report*, OREA issued the *The Cohort Report: Four-Year Results for the Class of 1987 and a Follow-Up of the Class of 1986.* Each of these reports applies a different method to counting dropouts.

The Cohort Report. The cohort method tracked a group of students selected at a given point--in this instance the more than 70,000 students who entered grade 9 in fall, 1983--and accounted for the status of all these students on their expected graduation day, June, 1987. The results provided the actual four-year graduation, dropout, and transfer

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*Formerly called the Office of Educational Assessment.

rates for the Class of 1987. The cohort study, therefore is an actual count and not an estimate of the number of dropouts over a four-year period. For this reason, OREA places more weight on its findings than on the four-year projections of the *Annual Dropout Report*.

This year, OREA is again issuing a cohort report; this report focuses on the Class of 1988. It provides actual four-year graduation and dropout rates for that group as well as a two-year update on the Class of 1986 and a one-year update on the Class of 1987.

The Annual Dropout Report. At the same time, OREA has prepared the *1987-88 Annual Dropout Report*, using the same methodology as in previous years. This *Report* continues to be issued for several reasons. First, it employs the method used by the State Education Department to calculate the dropout rate. The National Center for Educational Statistics also is considering the use of this method for nation-wide statistical reporting. Second, this method has been used in New York City for a decade, and allows the the dropout rate to be put into historical perspective.

Third, the *Annual Dropout Report* permits dropout rates to be calculated for major ethnic/racial groups now rather than in the future. The school system collected data on the ethnicity/racial background of dropouts for the first time during the 1986-87 school year. Since the cohort method requires longitudinal tracking over at least *four* years, the cohort study will not be able to provide complete ethnic/racial statistics for at least two more years (although preliminary information is presented in the *Cohort Report*). In the meantime, the *Annual Dropout Report* is the most efficient method of providing this information on a timely basis.

OVERVIEW OF THIS REPORT

The *1987-88 Annual Dropout Report* addresses a series of questions about the New York City public school system in 1987-88:

- How many students were first-time dropouts?
- What proportion of the student population dropped out?
- How many students graduated during the same period?
- From which schools did students dropout and graduate?
- Based on the number of actual dropouts in 1987-88, what is the estimated proportion of ninth-graders who drop out over the course of four years of high school?
- What are the ethnic/racial backgrounds of dropouts and of graduates?
- Based on the number of enrolled students for each ethnic/racial group, what percentage dropped out? What percentage finished high school?
- How do dropout statistics compare with those computed in previous years?
- What was the total number of students age 14 and over who left school? For what reasons?

In addressing these questions, annual dropout percentages are provided for:

- individual high schools;
- the high schools, as a whole;
- the school system, as a whole;
- each major ethnic group.

Projected four-year dropout rates are presented for each of the above groups, except individual high schools.

Chapter II of this report describes methodology. Chapter III presents major findings. Chapter IV offers conclusions. The Appendices provide additional information on methodology, background materials, and data on individual schools.

II. METHODOLOGY

This report provides information on students who dropped out during the 1987-88 school year. While the analyses were conducted on individual student records maintained by the Office of Educational Data Services (O.E.D.S.), the report focuses on citywide and schoolwide patterns, not on individual student outcomes.

STUDENT RECORDS

The accounting method employed in this report counts all students who dropped out of the New York City public schools during the 1987-88 school year, no matter when they entered the system or how fast they progressed from grade to grade. To compute annual dropout rates, the number of dropouts is divided by the total number of students in the relevant population pool. The population pool for the high school dropout rate is the total high school population; the pool for the system-wide dropout rate is the total student population age 14 and over. The student records that form the basis for this report contain information on students' current status, as well as previous admissions and discharges. By analyzing this information, OREA can distinguish first-time dropouts from those who have left the school system as dropouts before.

Following a procedure established three years ago, the dropout rates do **not** include students who left school during 1987-88, then reenrolled and were back in school by October 31, 1988. This procedure conforms with New York State Education Department high school re-registration practices. Appendix A contains more detailed information about the specific procedures used to prepare this report.

COMPARABILITY WITH PAST METHODOLOGIES

In computing the 1987-88 dropout rates, OREA applied the same methodology and the same data definitions as have been used for the past three years (i.e. 1984-85, 1985-86, and 1986-87). This year, as in prior years, three additional data sources were examined to confirm the status of students as dropouts. Students in the following categories were *not* counted as dropouts:

- students who, according to State Education Department reports, passed the Test of General Educational Development (G.E.D.) and, thereby, earned a high school equivalancy diploma;
- students who re-enrolled in a New York City public school by October 31, 1988; and
- students who were confirmed participants in adult basic education or high school equivalency programs operated by the Office of Adult and Continuing Education.

This year's accounting *does* include those students who were **not** counted as dropouts in 1986-87 because they had re-enrolled in fall, 1987, but who subsequently dropped out again. (See Appendix A.)

ETHNICITY/RACIAL DATA

In 1987-88, the Division of High Schools (D.H.S.) asked each high school in the system to provide information about the ethnic/racial background of its dropouts. (Appendix A contains a technical discussion of data collection and analytic procedures.) D.H.S. received information for 93.3 percent of all dropouts.

To increase the precision of the estimated ethnic/racial dropout rates, OREA applied statistical adjustments for missing data. For each of the 114 schools that identified the ethnicity/racial background of at least 60 percent of their dropouts, missing cases were allocated to each ethnic/racial group in proportion to the ethnic/racial distribution of

identified cases in the school. Next, OREA examined the five schools that had provided information on less than 60 percent of their dropouts more closely. Because of the composition of the ethnic/racial distribution of their total populations, reasonable assumptions could be made about the ethnicity/racial background of their dropouts. These schools were included in the analysis and their dropouts were proportionately allocated to ethnic/racial groups based on the total ethnic distribution of the school. As a result, no schools were omitted from the ethnic/racial analysis.

The report also presents the ethnic/racial distribution of 1987-88 high school graduates. These data were provided by the Division of High Schools.

III. MAJOR FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

Analyses of 1987-88 data show a slight increase in the dropout rate -- both in the high schools and system-wide. The annual rate was 7.5 percent for the high schools, and 8.4 percent system-wide. Projected over four years, these figures yield estimated four-year dropout rates of 26.8 percent for the high schools -- 0.5 percentage points higher than in 1986-87--and 29.7 percent system-wide--0.5 percentage points higher than in 1986-87. Tables 1 and 2 present the computation of the high school and system-wide dropout rates, respectively. Appendices A and B discuss in detail the procedures and definitions used by OREA to calculate the dropout rates.

The increase in the dropout rate was **not** due to any large increases in the number of dropouts. System-wide, there were only 22 more dropouts in 1987-88 than in 1986-87. In fact, the number of dropouts in day high schools decreased by 10 students from 1986-87 to 1987-88 and decreases were observed in the number of dropouts from special schools, middle schools, and Project Reentry. Only dropouts from retrieval programs showed any increase in number (approximately 300 students). The slight increase in the high school and system-wide dropout rates are due, instead, to the decrease in population bases. The high school population base decreased by 3,000 students from 1986-87 to 1987-88; system-wide this decrease was approximately 6,000 students. Preliminary data for 1988-89, suggest that the high school population base will decrease by an additional 6,000 students. Thus, even if the number of students found as dropouts in 1988-89 remains the same, the 1988-89 dropout rate will increase due to the decline in high school enrollment.

TABLE 1

Computation of the Dropout Rate for
New York City High Schools, 1987-88

Confirmed First-time Dropouts

From Day High Schools		17,704
From Retrieval Programs (Left Day High School in 1987-88)		1,727
	Total	19,431

Population Base for Rate Calculation

Official Register for Academic High Schools		223,223
Official Register for Vocational High Schools		28,473
Official Register for Alternative High Schools		7,007
	Total	258,703

Estimation of Dropout Rate

$$\text{Annual Dropout Percentage} = \frac{19,431}{258,703} = 7.51 \text{ percent}$$

$$\text{Annual Survival Rate} = 100.00 - 7.51 = 92.49 \text{ percent}$$

$$\text{Four-year Projected Survival Rate} = (.9249 \times .9249 \times .9249 \times .9249) = .7317$$

$$\text{Four-year Projected Dropout Rate} = 1.0000 - .7317 = .2683 = 26.83 \text{ percent}$$

NOTE: For reference purposes, in 1986-87, there were 19,181 dropouts and a population base of 261,700. The annual dropout percentage was 7.33 percent and the projected four-year rate was 26.25 percent.

TABLE 2

Computation of System-Wide Dropout Rate for
New York City Public Schools, 1987-88

Confirmed First-time Dropouts

From Day High Schools		17,704
From Retrieval Programs*		5,432
From Special Schools		872
From Middle Schools		845
From Project Reentry		197
	Total	25,050

Population Base for Rate Calculation

High School Enrollment, including Retrieval Programs		270,719
Ninth-Grade Students in Junior High Schools		18,089
Special Schools Students, Age 14 and Over (OREA Estimate)		7,824
	Total	296,632

Estimation of Dropout Rate

$$\text{Annual Dropout Percentage} = \frac{25{,}050}{296{,}632} = 8.44 \text{ percent}$$

Annual Survival Rate = 100.00 - 8.44 = 91.56 percent

Four-year Projected
Survival Rate = (.9156 X .9156 X .9156 X .9156) = .7028

Four-year Projected
Dropout Rate = 1.0000 - .7028 = .2972 = 29.72 percent

NOTE: For reference purposes, in 1986-87, there were 25,028 dropouts and a population base of 302,617. The annual dropout percentage was 8.27 percent and the projected four-year rate was 29.20 percent.

*Includes the 1,727 Retrieval Program students who left a day high school in 1987-88 (see Table 1) and other students in Retrieval Programs.

DROPOUT DISCHARGE CATEGORIES

Discharge records for approximately three-fourths of the dropouts (75.4 percent) showed only that they were over 17 and had their parents' consent to leave school. An additional 8.9 percent were discharged to other educational settings without confirmed admission; 8.2 percent left school for employment, job training, or military service; and 7.5 percent were not found after a search by the Bureau of Attendance. This pattern applied to dropouts from all programs except students found as dropouts from middle school and Project Reentry; these students were most frequently discharged as not found. Table 3 reports reasons for dropout discharge for students by type of program. Table 4 presents dropout counts by program type for each of the past six years.

STUDENTS DISCHARGED FROM NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS

The dropout statistics can be placed in context by examining the discharge records of all students, age 14 and over, who leave the school system. Table 5 shows the total number of students age 14 and over who left school in 1987-88 and the reasons for discharge. Slightly less than half (48.4 percent) satisfactorily completed their high school education--a decrease of 3.1 percentage points over the previous year. Confirmed dropouts (both first-time and previous dropouts) accounted for 27.9 percent of all discharges, a decrease of 2.1 percentage points from last year. The remaining 27.3 percent were discharged in non-dropout categories. Table 6 offers comparison data for the past five years.

TABLE 3

Dropouts From New York City Public Schools
by Program and Type of Discharge, 1987-88

Discharge Category	*Confirmed First-Time Dropouts*
Dropouts From Day High Schools	
Employment Certificate	518
Job Corps or Vocational Training Center	462
Business or Trade School	440
Military Service	60
Discharged to Auxiliary Services without Confirmed Admission	1,116
Discharged to Outreach Center without Confirmed Admission	406
Discharged to Evening High School without Confirmed Admission	566
Other Over 17	13,462
Not Found	674
Total Day High School Dropouts	17,704
Dropouts From Retrieval Programs	
Employment, Job Training, Military Service	256
Discharged to a New Setting without Confirmed Admission	217
Other Over 17	4,630
Not Found	329
Total Retrieval Program Dropouts	5,432

NOTE: These figures exclude G.E.D. recipients, students currently active or discharged in non-dropout categories, and adult or continuing education students in active attendance.

TABLE 3
(continued)

Dropouts From New York City Public Schools
by Program and Type of Discharge, 1987-88

Discharge Category	*Confirmed First-Time Dropouts*
Dropouts From Special Schools	
Employment, Job Training, Military Service	49
Discharged to a New Setting without Confirmed Admission	102
Other Over 17	603
Not Found	118
Total Special Schools Dropouts	872
Dropouts From Middle Schools	
Employment, Job Training, Military Service	54
Discharged to a New Setting without Confirmed Admission	10
Other Over 17	98
Not Found	683
Total Middle Schools Dropouts	845
Project Reentry Students	
Employment, Job Training, Military Service	1
Discharged to a New Setting without Confirmed Admission	9
Other Over 17	92
Not Found	85
Total Project Reentry Dropouts	197

NOTE: These figures exclude G.E.D. recipients, students currently active or discharged in non-dropout categories, and adult or continuing education students in active attendance.

TABLE 4

Dropouts From New York City Public Schools
1982-83 to 1987-88

Program Type	*82-83*	*83-84*	*84-85*	*85-86*	*86-87*	*87-88*
Day High Schools	28,791	28,207	23,494	19,058	17,714	17,704
Retrieval Programs	4,183	6,066	4,796	5,222	5,004	5,432
Special Schools	2,751	1,829	1,558	1,164	1,039	872
Middle Schools	1,492	1,436	1,227	918	922	845
Project Reentry	1,823	1,266	569	412	349	197
Total	39,040	38,804	31,644	26,774	25,028	25,050

TABLE 5

Discharge Categories of All Students Age 14 and Over
Who Left School in 1987-88

Discharge Category	*Number of Students*	*Percent of All Discharges*
Completed High School Education		
Graduated*	42,207	39.4
Received G.E.D.	8,290	7.7
Early College Admission	114	0.1
Completed H. S. Special Education Program	1,243	1.2
Sub-total	51,854	48.4
Enrolled in New Educational Setting (Admission Confirmed)		
Parochial School	1,114	1.0
Private School	725	0.7
Institutionalized	808	0.8
Adult or Continuing Education	33	0.0
G.E.D. Preparation	2,018	1.9
Home Instruction	55	0.0
Sub-total	4,753	4.4
Other		
Moved from New York City	13,964	13.0
Deceased	183	0.2
Over 21	741	0.7
Administrative Discharge**	5,840	5.4
Sub-total	20,728	19.3
Dropped Out ***		
First-time Dropout	25,050	23.4
Previous Dropout	4,754	4.5
Sub-total	29,804	27.9
Total Discharges	107,139	100.0

* From Divison of High Schools 1988 Annual Report on Graduates.

** Students with no record of activity for at least two years who were discharged by O.E.D.S.

*** These figures exlude G.E.D. recipients, students currently active or discharged in non-dropout categories, and adult or continuing education students in good standing.

TABLE 6

Discharge Categories of All Students, Age 14 and Over, Who Left School
1983-84 through 1987-88

	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86		1986-87		1987-88	
Discharge Category	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Completed H. S. Education										
Graduated*	43,340	40.2	41,996	41.1	39,490	40.2	41,337	42.7	42,207	39.4
Received G.E.D.	4,221	3.9	5,822	5.7	8,158	8.3	7,399	7.6	8,290	7.7
Early College Admission	150	0.1	126	0.1	111	0.1	119	0.1	114	0.1
Completed H.S. Special Education Program	193	0.2	74	0.1	660	0.7	986	1.0	1,243	1.2
Subtotal	47,904	44.4	48,018	47.0	48,419	49.3	49,841	51.5	51,854	48.4
Enrolled in New Educational Setting										
Parochial School	1,440	1.3	1,565	1.5	1,390	1.4	1,221	1.3	1,114	1.0
Private School	1,129	1.1	1,153	1.1	812	0.8	720	0.8	725	0.7
Institutionalized	993	0.9	953	0.9	959	1.0	913	0.9	808	0.8
Adult or Continuing Education	**	**	379	0.4	616	0.6	214	0.2	33	0.0
G.E.D. Preparation	714	0.7	1,100	1.1	2,117	2.2	1,748	1.8	2,018	1.9
Home Instruction	98	0.1	62	0.1	48	0.0	32	0.0	55	0.0
Subtotal	4,374	4.1	5,212	5.1	5,942	6.0	4,848	5.0	4,753	4.4
Other										
Moved from N.Y.C.	11,430	10.6	12,033	11.8	12,855	13.1	12,406	12.8	13,964	13.0
Deceased	191	0.2	180	0.2	169	0.2	160	0.2	183	0.2
Over 21	**	**	359	0.3	429	0.4	497	0.5	741	0.7
Administrative Discharge	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	5,840	5.4
Subtotal	11,621	10.8	12,372	12.3	13,453	13.7	13,063	13.5	20,728	19.3
Dropped Out ++										
First-time Dropout	38,804	36.0	31,644	31.0	26,744	27.2	25,028	25.9	25,050	23.4
Previous Dropout	5,023	4.7	4,643	4.6	3,763	3.8	3,985	4.1	4,754	4.5
Subtotal	43,827	40.7	36,287	35.6	30,507	31.0	29,013	30.0	29,804	27.9
Total Discharges	107,726	100.0	102,089	100.0	98,321	100.0	96,765	100.0	107,139	100.0

* From Division of High Schools *Annual Report on Graduates*.
** These categories were first used in 1984-85.
+ This category first used in 1987-88.
++ These figures exclude G.E.D. recipients, students currently active or discharged in non-dropout categories, and adult or continuing education students in good standing.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL DATA

Appendices D and E report individual school data for academic/comprehensive, vocational/technical, and alternative high schools, arranged by borough superintendency. Appendix D reports, for each school, the number of dropouts, the number of graduates, the school enrollment, and the annual dropout percentage. Appendix E shows counts for each type of dropout by school. Appendix F provides comparison data, showing school-by-school annual dropout percentages for the past six years.

ETHNICITY/RACIAL BACKGROUND

Table 7 reports the ethnic/racial distributions of three high school groupings: total enrollment as of October 31, 1988; dropouts; and graduates for 1987-88. Of the 17,704 first-time dropouts from day high schools in 1987-88 that were included in the analysis, 39.1 percent were identified as Hispanic, and 39.2 percent were identified as Black. White students accounted for 16.9 percent; Asian/Pacific Islander students for 4.7 percent; and American Indian/Alaskan Native students for 0.1 percent.

Hispanic students constituted 29.5 percent of the high schools' total enrollment, but accounted for 39.1 percent of the dropouts. They are overrepresented by 9.6 percentage points among dropouts. Black students drop out at a rate approximately equal to their representation in the high schools. White students are underrepresented in the dropout population by 5.6 percentage points and the percent of dropouts who are Asian/Pacific Islanders is three percentage points less than their representation in the total high school enrollment.

The ethnic/racial distributions of graduates present a mirror image of the dropout data. Fewer Hispanic students graduate than would be expected, based on their

TABLE 7

Ethnic/Racial Percentage Distributions of
Dropouts, Graduates, and All Students
Enrolled in New York City Day High Schools

Ethnic/Racial Group	Dropouts (N=17,704)	Graduates* (N=40,419)	Total Enrollment** (N=256,967)
Alaskan Native/ American Indian	0.1%	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.7	10.2	8.0
Hispanic	39.1	23.8	29.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	39.2	36.5	39.9
White (non-Hispanic)	16.9	29.4	22.5
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Data supplied by the Office of Data Acquisition, Tabulation, Analysis of the Division of High Schools.

**Based on the October, 1987 Pupil Ethnic Composition Report from the Office of Educational Data Services.

representation in the high school population. Again, Black students are proportionately represented, and White and Asian/Pacific Islander students are over-represented among graduates.

Table 8 presents the actual one-year and estimated four-year dropout rates for each ethnic/racial group. Table 9 details the calculation of these ethnic dropout rates. Hispanics were the only group with a dropout rate higher than that for the overall high school population; their dropout rates exceeded those for the total high school population by 1.6 percentage points for one-year and 5.0 percentage points for the four-year estimate. Asians showed the lowest dropout rates followed by Alaskan Native/American Indian and then by White (non-Hispanic) students. The dropout rates for Black students were slightly lower than those for the total high school population as a whole. Compared to 1986-87, the four-year estimates showed small increases in every ethnic/racial group, except Alaskan Natives/American Indian. For both Blacks and Hispanics, however, the increases represented less than one percent point. As with the overall high school population, these increases do not represent increases in the number of dropouts, but rather, decreases in the high school enrollment.

TABLE 8

Dropout Rate for Ethnic/Racial
High School Populations

Ethnic/Racial Group	One-Year (Actual)	Four-Year (Estimate)
Hispanic	9.1%	31.8%
Black (Non-Hispanic)	6.8	24.5
White (Non-Hispanic)	5.2	19.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.0	15.2
Alaskan Native/ American Indian	5.1	18.8
Overall H.S. Population	7.5	26.8

TABLE 9

Computation of Dropout Rates for Ethnic/Racial Groups
in New York City High Schools, 1987-88

ALASKAN NATIVE/AMERICAN INDIAN

Confirmed First-time Dropouts 20

Population Base for Rate Calculation 396

Estimation of Dropout Rate

Annual Dropout Percentage $= \frac{20}{396} = 5.08$ percent

Annual Survival Rate = 100.0 - 5.08 = 94.92 percent

Four-year Projected
Survival Rate = (.9492 X .9492 X .9492 X .9492) = .8112

Four-year Projected
Dropout Rate = 1.0000 - .8112 = .8112 = 18.82 percent

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

Confirmed First-time Dropouts 829

Population Base for Rate Calculation 20,506

Estimation of Dropout Rate

Annual Dropout Percentage $= \frac{829}{20,506} = 4.04$ percent

Annual Survival Rate = 100.0 - 4.04 = 95.96 percent

Four-year Projected
Survival Rate = (.9596 X .9596 X .9596 X .9596) = .8479

Four-year Projected
Dropout Rate = 1.0000 - .8479 = .1521 = 15.21 percent

TABLE 9
(continued)

Computation of Dropout Rates for Ethnic/Racial Groups
in New York City High Schools, 1987-88

HISPANIC

Confirmed First-time Dropouts	6,920
Population Base for Rate Calculation	75,894

Estimation of Dropout Rate

$$\text{Annual Dropout Percentage} = \frac{6{,}920}{75{,}894} = 9.12 \text{ percent}$$

Annual Survival Rate = 100.0 - 9.12 = 90.88 percent

Four-year Projected
Survival Rate = (.9088 X .9088 X .9088 X .9088) = .6822

Four-year Projected
Dropout Rate = 1.0000 - .6822 = .3178 = 31.78 percent

BLACK (NON-HISPANIC)

Confirmed First-time Dropouts	6,943
Population Base for Rate Calculation	102,405

Estimation of Dropout Rate

$$\text{Annual Dropout Percentage} = \frac{6{,}943}{102{,}405} = 6.78 \text{ percent}$$

Annual Survival Rate = 100.0 - 6.78 = 93.22 percent

Four-year Projected
Survival Rate = (.9322 X .9322 X .9322 X .9322) = .7552

Four-year Projected
Dropout Rate = 1.0000 - .7552 = .2448 = 24.48 percent

TABLE 9
(continued)

Computation of Dropout Rates for Ethnic/Racial Groups
in New York City High Schools, 1987-88

WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)

Confirmed First-time Dropouts	2,993
Population Base for Rate Calculation	57,766

Estimation of Dropout Rate

Annual Dropout Percentage $= \frac{2{,}993}{57{,}766} = 5.18$ percent

Annual Survival Rate = 100.0 - 5.18 = 94.82 percent

Four-year Projected
Survival Rate = (.9482 X .9482 X .9482 X .9482) = .8083

Four-year Projected
Dropout Rate = 1.0000 - .8083 = .1917 = 19.17 percent

AGE, GENDER, AND GRADE ANALYSIS

OREA analyzed the age, gender, and grade of the students identified as dropouts from New York City day high schools during 1987-88. In order to compare the findings for the 1987-88 dropouts to students who did not drop out, OREA analyzed the age, sex, and grade information for students in high schools who were on enrolled in spring, 1988.

The results of the gender analyses indicated that males accounted for 56 percent of the dropouts but only 50 percent of the active students. (See Table 10.) Table 11 indicates the range of ages of the students dropping out during the 1987-88 school year. Nearly 85 percent of the dropouts were 18 years or older in 1988 compared to only 42.6 percent of the students enrolled in high school. Thus, the vast majority of dropouts were at least one year overage for grade.

Table 12 shows the age by grade distribution of the dropouts, and Table 13 presents the same information for the students enrolled in high school in spring, 1988. The results indicate that dropouts were likely to be two or three years overage for grade. Specifically, 23.3 percent of the dropouts were 18 years old and still listed as being in ninth grade. These students were three years overage for grade. (See Table 12.)

By comparison, only 6.2 percent of the students enrolled in spring, 1988 were 18 years old and in either ninth or tenth grade. Overall, only 2.7 percent of the 1987-88 dropouts were on grade for their age, compared to 50.4 percent of the students enrolled.

Finally, dropouts were more likely than the students who were enrolled to have been placed in a special education class (11.2 percent compared to 9.5 percent).

TABLE 10

Gender Distribution of Students in
New York City Day High Schools, 1987-88

Gender	Students Dropping Out (N = 17,704)	Students Enrolled in School (N = 256,160)
Female	43.9%	49.5%
Male	56.1	50.5
Total	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 11

Age Distribution of Students in
New York City Day High Schools, 1987-88

Age, in 1987-88	Students Dropping Out (N = 17,704)	Students Enrolled in School (N = 256,160)
15 years or below	0.2%	11.1%
16 years	1.2	20.5
17 years	14.9	25.7
18 years	38.3	23.9
19 years	25.5	10.1
20 years	13.5	4.2
21 years or above	6.4	4.4
Total	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 12

Age by Grade Distribution of Students
Dropping Out of New York City High Schools, 1987-88

Age, in 1987-88		Grade						
		Unknown	9	10	11	12	Special Education	Total
15 or below	N	2	28	5	0	0	2	37
	%	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
16 years	N	25	104	58	2	1	24	214
	%	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2
17 years	N	290	1,100	771	205	8	258	2,632
	%	1.6	6.2	4.4	1.2	0.0	1.5	14.9
18 years	N	629	2,057	2,078	1,108	169	741	6,782
	%	3.6	11.6	11.7	6.3	1.0	4.2	38.3
19 years	N	391	679	1,054	1,279	614	505	4,522
	%	2.2	3.8	6.0	7.2	3.5	2.9	25.5
20 years	N	124	225	435	788	527	285	2,384
	%	0.7	1.3	2.5	4.5	3.0	1.6	13.5
21 years	N	48	59	137	299	254	138	935
	%	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.7	1.4	0.8	5.3
Over 21 years	N	11	11	23	53	73	27	198
	%	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	N	1,520	4,263	4,561	3,734	1,646	1,980	17,704
	%	8.6	24.1	25.8	21.1	9.3	11.2	100.0

TABLE 13

Age by Grade Distribution of Students Enrolled
in New York City High Schools, Spring, 1988

Age, in 1987-88		Grade						
		Unknown	9	10	11	12	Special Education	Total
15 or below	N	65	25,736	2,279	79	27	306	28,492
	%	0.0	10.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	11.1
16 years	N	32	17,601	30,133	2,067	165	2,488	52,486
	%	0.0	6.9	11.8	0.8	0.1	1.0	20.5
17 years	N	26	11,411	21,308	2,5651	2,336	5,190	65,922
	%	0.0	4.5	8.3	10.0	0.9	2.0	25.7
18 years	N	29	4,802	11,123	17,070	22,002	6,248	61274
	%	0.0	1.9	4.3	6.7	8.6	2.4	23.9
19 years	N	29	1,640	3,986	7,968	7,829	4,523	25,975
	%	0.0	0.6	1.6	3.1	3.1	1.8	10.1
20 years	N	24	658	1,543	3,143	2,874	2,558	10,800
	%	0.0	0.3	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.0	4.2
21 years	N	22	288	692	1,147	968	1,394	4,511
	%	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.8
Over 21 years	N	254	288	606	1,167	2,673	1,712	6700
	%	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.7	2.6
Total	N	481	62,424	71,670	5,8292	38,874	24,419	256,160
	%	0.2	24.4	28.0	22.8	15.2	9.5	100.0

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The dropout rate increased very slightly in 1987-88; it remains too high, especially among Hispanic students. Reinforcing the holding power of the schools remains a top priority of the New York City public school system.

The school system's four-year dropout rate, projected on the basis of 1987-88 data, was 29.7 percent; data from the previous year yielded a 29.2 percent dropout rate. When the analyses included only high school students, the dropout rate was 26.8 percent based on 1987-88 data, and 26.3 percent based on the previous year's data. In both the high school and system-wide rates, the increase is attributable, *not* to an increase in the number of dropouts, but to a decrease in high school enrollment in the New York City public schools.

These data raise several concerns. First, the stability in the number of dropouts suggests that the Board of Education's programmatic efforts to combat the dropout rate still need to be strengthened. Second, the continuing decrease in the high school enrollment is a cause of concern and needs to be studied to determine its causes. Third, since Hispanic students account for a disproportionate number of dropouts and are substantially underrepresented among graduates, they must continue to be targeted for special attention.

APPENDIX A: PROCEDURES

DEFINITION OF DROPOUT

This report follows recent State Education Department guidelines in determining which students are first-time dropouts. Accordingly, dropouts are those students who left school during the 1987-88 school year who did not re-enroll in another educational setting by November 1, 1988 and who had not been counted as dropouts in previous years. Students who left school and enrolled in programs which prepared them for the Test of General Educational Development (G.E.D.), leading to the high school equivalency diploma, are not considered dropouts unless they drop out from the G.E.D. program.

In New York City, students can be legally discharged from the school system once they reach age 17 and have parental consent to leave school. Students with employment certificates may leave at age 16. Students who are absent for long periods of time and who cannot be located by the Bureau of Attendance can be discharged as "not found." This report considers "not found" students age 14 or over to be dropouts.

H'GH SCHOOL AND SYSTEM-WIDE DROPOUT RATES

High School Dropout Rate

The following students are included in the high school dropout rate:

- dropouts from academic/comprehensive, vocational/technical, and alternative high schools; and
- dropouts from dropout-retrieval programs who left an academic/comprehensive, vocational/technical, or alternative high school during the same school year.

System-wide Dropout Rate

In addition to the students included in the high school dropout rate, the system-wide dropout rate includes:

- dropouts from intermediate and junior high schools;
- high school "no shows" who failed to appear at the high school to which they were assigned and were determined to be dropouts by the Bureau of Attendance;

- dropouts from special education schools; and
- dropouts from retrieval programs who did not leave a day high school during the same school year.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Day High Schools

Most students age 14 and over in New York City attend academic/comprehensive or vocational/technical day high schools; in 1987-88 slightly more than 87 percent of the almost 300,000 students between the ages of 14 and 21 attended one of these 103 schools. There are also 16 alternative high schools which serve about 10,000 students who have experienced difficulties in other school settings. Academic/comprehensive, vocational/ technical, and alternative schools all offer high school diplomas.

Evening High Schools

Approximately 15,000 students attended one or more evening high-school class each semester. About 93 percent of these were students simultaneously attending day high schools; the others had been formally discharged. Students discharged from day high schools with three or fewer credits outstanding are still eligible to receive a day high-school diploma as "former students" when they complete their diploma requirements. Students who are four or more credits short of graduation when they are discharged from day high school are awarded an evening high school diploma when they complete their requirements.

Retrieval Programs

According to the 1988 annual audited register, approximately 12,000 students attended Division of High Schools day programs for students who have left regular day

schooling. These retrieval programs include Auxiliary Services for High Schools (A.S.H.S.), G.E.D. programs in regular day high-schools, outreach centers, and literacy centers for students with very low reading levels. For purposes of this report, the School for Pregnant Teenagers and the Substance Abuse Programs are also considered retrieval settings in that they serve students who have left other educational programs leading to a high school diploma. The retrieval programs, the day high schools, and the evening high schools are all administered by the Division of High Schools.

Community School District And Project Reentry Students

A number of students age 14 and over remain outside the jurisdiction of the Division of High Schools. In 1987-88 these included: approximately 18,000 ninth-graders in junior high schools; over-age students who had not yet moved on to high school; and students who failed to appear at the high school to which they were assigned. This last group, the "no shows," are also known as Project Reentry students; if they do not eventually report to high school, they can be discharged as dropouts. Project Reentry students also include students who have been identified as at-risk of dropping out because of low attendance during the last year before high school.

Special Education Schools

Most special education students age 14 and over attend regular day high schools. The Division of Special Education also operates full-time programs for students whose handicaps preclude their participation in regular day high schools. These include occupational training centers for mentally handicapped students, day and residential treatment programs for emotionally handicapped students, and programs for students with physical or sensory impairments.

DROPOUT ACCOUNTING

Discharge Codes

The basic data from which the dropout statistics are derived are the regular reports of student admissions and discharges submitted to O.E.D.S. by the pupil accounting secretaries in each school. This information is used to update each student's computerized, cumulative record; information which has been replaced is stored as "history."

Students may be discharged from New York City schools in one of over twenty categories; six of these are considered dropout discharges. These six categories are: leaving school after obtaining an employment certificate; entering military service; attending a business or trade school; joining the Job Corps or other vocational training; not found after a search by the Bureau of Attendance; and all others over 17 who leave school with parental consent. Other students counted as dropouts are those who are discharged to a retrieval program or evening high school but who do not have a confirmed admission.

Non-dropout discharge codes include any confirmed transfer to another educational setting, including home instruction; moving from New York City; completion of high school through graduation, early admission to college, earning a high school equivalency diploma, or completion of the goals established in special education individual educational plan (I.E.P.); and, new in 1984-85, reaching age 21. (For a listing of all discharge and admission categories, see Appendix B.)

Dropout Counts

In order to determine the basic dropout count for the 1987-88 school year, all records for students between 14 and 21 years of age were examined. From these records, O.E.D.S. identified all students discharged as dropouts between September 1, 1987 and

July 1, 1988, and in fall, 1988, sent the schools a name-by-name listing (the Discharge Verification Report) for verification of each student's status as a 1987-88 dropout. O.E.D.S. also inspected the records of all students discharged to retrieval programs to confirm that all admissions to new settings had been recorded; students whose admission could not be confirmed were considered dropouts. Following the completion of these dropout verification procedures and updating of the students' records, preliminary dropout counts were computed.

Several procedures instituted in 1984-85 have been continued each year through 1987-88. All these procedures have the effect of crediting the schools and school system for students who either continue or complete their education after having initially dropped out of school. All of the changes are also consistent with policy and procedures used by the State Education Department (S.E.D.) when reviewing school retention rates for school registration purposes.

First, the report does not count as dropouts any students who, by October 31, 1988, returned to active status in the school system or whose discharge code had been updated to a non-dropout discharge category. This procedure first identifies all students who dropped out of school in the 1987-88 school year and then searches for them in the October 31, 1988 version of the computerized student information system. Students found in active status or in non-dropout discharge status are removed from the count of dropouts. A student who subsequently drops out, however, will be included in the following year's dropout count. For example, 1986-87 dropouts who returned to school in September or October of 1987 and then dropped out, appear in the 1987-88 dropout count.

Second, students who left the New York City public schools and enrolled in adult or continuing education programs are **not** counted as dropouts. The procedure is the same as that described above, extending the accounting year to October 31; all 1987-88 dropouts

are identified and then any found on the adult education registers are deleted from the count of dropouts. Students reported to have left their adult education program are not deleted from the dropout count.

Third, students who left the New York City public schools and subsequently earned a G.E.D. are not considered dropouts. Before 1984-85, the only students credited with earning a G.E.D. were those who reported this information to the schools themselves. However, beginning with 1984-85 the S.E.D. provided the school system a computer file of all New York City residents who received G.E.D.s. The S.E.D. computer file is used to update student status in the O.E.D.S. student information system file. In 1986-87, the G.E.D. computerized file was expanded to include New York City public school students who were discharged and then reported as earning a G.E.D. from a New Jersey high school equivalency program during the 1986-87 school year. Any dropouts who earned the G.E.D. are removed from the count of dropouts. This procedure has been continued in 1987-88.

Finally, the report has a more accurate accounting of students discharged to evening high schools. Only those evening high school students who did not graduate by fall, 1988, or whose admission could not be confirmed are counted as dropouts.

Estimation of the Dropout Rate

Past reports have defined the dropout rate as the proportion of students who do not complete high school. The most direct way to calculate this rate would be to follow each year's entering ninth-graders (a cohort) as they proceed through school. However, since reliable, computerized data were not available until 1981-82, the first opportunity for such a cohort study did not occur until after the 1984-85 school year. At present, OREA issues both an annual dropout report and a cohort study. The first study utilizing the cohort approach to dropout accounting was released in October, 1987. That report

followed the class of 1986 over the standard four-year high school period, identifying and quantifying student admission and discharge transactions for each year. A second cohort study, released in June, 1988, used the same procedure, tracking the class of 1987 from their entry into the ninth grade and updating the findings for the class of 1986. This year, OREA is releasing the third cohort report, tracking the class of 1988 and updating both the class of 1986 (two years after their expected graduation date) and the class of 1987 (one year after their expected graduation date).

As in previous years, the *Annual Dropout Report* uses a procedure known as the survival rate method to compute an estimate of the four-year dropout rate. The survival rate method projects the annual dropout percentage over four years. This method answers the following question: At a given annual rate of attrition, what percentage of the population would remain in school after four years? Conversely, what percentage would drop out over four years? The method assumes that the factors of mobility are in balance. That is, the rate of transfer into the system equals the rate of transfer out.

Ethnicity/Racial Background

In October, 1987, the Division of High Schools (D.H.S.) sent each high school a preliminary listing of their 1986-87 dropouts, the Discharge Verification Report (D.V.R.), for status update. For the first time, schools were asked to identify the ethnic/racial background of each student in dropout status, using the following six categories: Alaskan Native/American Indian; Asian/Pacific Islander; Hispanic; non-Hispanic Black; non-Hispanic White; and unknown. D.H.S. instructed schools to obtain the ethnic/racial information from staff who were familiar with each former student; e.g., grade advisors, counselors, and attendance teachers. In fall, 1988, D.H.S. sent the high schools another Discharge Verification Report listing 1987-88 dropouts. Again, D.H.S. instructed the

school to verify the status of students and to identify ethnic/racial background of the dropouts.

Schools identified the ethnic/racial background of 16,526 (93.3 percent) of the 17,704 high school dropouts for 1987-88; 1,178 (6.7 percent) were reported as ethnicity/racial background unknown or were not categorized.

As a first step in adjusting the ethnic/racial distribution of dropouts for unidentified students, the percentage of missing ethnic/racial data was examined for each high school. Of the 119 high schools, all but 5 reported ethnic/racial information for at least 60 percent of their dropouts. Next OREA inspected the ethnic/racial distributions of both dropouts and the total school population for each of these 5 high schools. Since only four percent of the high schools failed to report more than 60 percent of their data and reasonable assumptions about the ethnicity/racial background of their dropouts could be made based on the total school population, all schools were included in the ethnic/racial analysis.

APPENDIX B: ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE CODES

ADMISSION CODES

Admission from another N.Y.C. Public School 50

Admission from N.Y.C. Parochial School (not readmission) 51

Admission from Board of Education Home Instruction 52

Readmission into the N.Y.C. Public School system following formal discharge out of N.Y.C. Public School system within the same school year.

- from parochial school 53
- from other (private school, other cities, period of non-enrollment, etc.) 54

Readmission into the N.Y.C. Public School system following formal discharge out of the N.Y.C. Public School system in a previous school year.

- from parochial school 55
- from other (private school, other cities, period of non-enrollment, etc.) 56

Admission-first time entrant into the N.Y.C. Public School system, other than from parochial school (includes Kindergarten and Grade 1 new entrants and pupils from private schools, other cities, etc.) 58

DISCHARGE CODES

Admitted to other N.Y.C. Public School ..... .00
Graduated High School Diploma ..... .01
Obtained Employment Certificate ..... .02
Under 6 Years Old ..... .04
Admitted to Parochial School ..... .06
Admitted to Business or Trade School ..... .07
Admitted to Private School ..... .08
Private Instruction at Home (Non Board of Education) ..... .09
In Institution (Non-Board of Education) 10
Removal From New York City ..... .11
Not Found 12
Deceased 15
Home Instruction (Board of Education) 17
Enrolled in a College Early Admission Program
prior to graduation from High School ..... .20
Over 21 Years Old 21
Special Education Certificate Recipient 22
Special Education I.E.P. Diploma 23

"OVER 17" DISCHARGE CODES

To be used in conjunction with official regulations for the discharge of students who are 17 years of age or older.

Received New York State High School Equivalency Diploma ..... .30
Enrolled in Auxiliary Services for the High Schools ..... .31
Enrolled in an Outreach Center ..... .32
Enrolled in a N.Y.C. Public Evening High School
to continue work toward a High School Diploma ..... .33
Enrolled in Job Corps or other similar vocational
training program, including O.V.R. 34
Entered Military Service ..... .35
Enrolled in a full-time High School Equivalency
program other than in Auxiliary Services or
Outreach Centers ..... .36
Special Education "High School Completer" 37
Other - Over 17, not included in any categories above ..... .39

APPENDIX C:

HISTORY OF DROPOUT ACCOUNTING IN NEW YORK CITY

HISTORY OF DROPOUT ACCOUNTING IN NEW YORK CITY

Until 1981-82, dropout statistics were based on tabulations of admissions, discharges, and graduates which were collected by the schools and submitted to the central offices of the Board of Education. With the establishment of a computerized student information system, the Biofile, it became possible to relate these data to individual student records, and to identify students who dropped out but then re-enrolled. The historical records on the Biofile also made it possible to avoid duplicate counts of students who dropped out, returned to school, and then dropped out again.

Since 1977-78 the school system has greatly expanded its student information system. Improved accounting procedures, data collection methods, and definitions of dropout codes have all contributed to an increasingly accurate presentation of dropout statistics. At the same time, such improvements reduce the comparability of the annual dropout estimates from one year to the next. Findings from previous reports, however, do give some indication of the magnitude of the problem. Projected four-year dropout rates, all of which were based on aggregate data, were as follows: for academic year 1977-78, 44.3 percent; for 1978-79, 47.3 percent; and for 1980-81, 46.8 percent. In 1981-82 two rates were reported; the first, computed in the same way as in the previous three years, was 45 percent, and the second, which did not count as dropouts any students who re-enrolled within the same school year, was 41.4 percent. All figures from 1977-78 to 1981-82 refer only to students attending academic/comprehensive, vocational/technical, and alternative day high schools.

In 1982-83, dropout accounting was expanded to include all students served by the school system who were of high school age; i.e. 14 to 21 years. Data were gathered for community school district students attending intermediate and junior high schools, special

education students, and also students attending special programs designed for the dropout population. In order to provide more information about the reasons students leave school, additional discharge categories were defined for use by the schools. Finally, continuing with the procedure established in 1981-82, an attempt was made to include only first-time dropouts. The estimated four-year rate for day high schools was 38.4 percent and the rate for all programs serving students age 14 and over was 41.7 percent.

Procedures in 1983-84 were essentially the same as in 1982-83. The estimated four-year rate for day high schools was 38.4 percent and the rate for all programs serving students age 14 and over was 41.9 percent. In 1984-85 procedures were introduced which credit the school system for students who either continue or complete their education after having initially dropped out of school. (See Appendix A.) The estimated four-year rate in 1984-85 for day high schools was 32.5 percent and the system-wide rate was 35.3 percent.

In 1985-86, the dropout accounting process remained the same as in the 1984-85 dropout report. The estimated four-year rate for day high schools was 27.9 percent and for all students age 14 and over, the dropout rate was 30.7 percent. In 1986-87, the dropout accounting process again remained the same as in the previous two years. In 1986-87, the estimated four-year rate for day high schools was 26.25 percent and the system-wide rate was 29.2 percent. Past documents on the dropout rate include: *The Dropout Report* (October 16, 1979); *High School Dropout Statistics, 1981-82* (March, 1983); *Dropouts from New York Public Schools, 1982-83* (Spring 1984); *Dropouts from New York Public Schools, 1983-84* (Spring 1985); *The 1984-85 Dropout Report* (February, 1986); *The 1985-86 Dropout Report*; and *The 1986-87 Dropout Report*.

APPENDIX D:

DROPOUTS AND GRADUATES FROM NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOLS, 1987-88

Dropouts and Graduates From New York City High Schools, 1987-88

School	*Dropouts*	*Oct' 87 Register*	*Dropout Percentage*	*Graduates*
A. Philip Randolph	45	1,436	3.1	315
Chelsea	76	978	7.8	140
Fashion Industries	101	1,982	5.1	274
F. H. LaGuardia	47	2,509	1.9	554
George Washington	355	3,362	10.6	288
Graphic Com. Arts	143	1,778	8.0	211
Humanities	73	1,739	4.2	335
H. S. of Art & Design	52	1,847	2.8	398
Julia Richman	383	3,191	12.0	414
Louis D. Brandeis	262	2,553	10.3	415
Mabel D. Bacon	67	1,253	5.3	192
Martin Luther King, Jr.	291	2,926	9.9	347
Math and Science	30	1,268	2.4	247
Murry Bergtraum	89	2,622	3.4	556
Norman Thomas	160	2,812	5.7	550
Park West	305	3,367	9.1	340
Seward Park	348	3,568	9.8	538
Stuyvesant	2	2,711	0.1	635
Washington Irving	207	2,711	7.6	369
Manhattan	3,036	44,613	6.8	7,118
Adlai E. Stevenson	585	4,652	12.6	572
Alfred E. Smith	97	1,405	6.9	135
Bronx H. S. of Science	10	2,690	0.4	700
Christopher Columbus	251	2,810	8.9	481
DeWitt Clinton	271	4,273	6.3	543
Evander Childs	380	3,338	11.4	438
Grace H. Dodge	77	1,557	4.9	252
Harry S. Truman	140	2,229	6.3	376
Herbert H. Lehman	210	2,362	8.9	462
James Monroe	258	2,093	12.3	222
Jane Addams	118	1,635	7.2	186
John F. Kennedy	389	4,974	7.8	793
Morris	217	1,821	11.9	182
Samuel Gompers	112	1,473	7.6	226
South Bronx	85	1,020	8.3	114
Theodore Roosevelt	439	3,420	12.8	327
University Heights	23	210	11.0	12
Walton	288	3,466	8.3	412
William H. Taft	222	2,698	8.2	314
Bronx	4,172	48,126	8.7	6,747

Dropouts and Graduates From New York City High Schools, 1987-88
(continued)

School	Dropouts	Oct' 87 Register	Dropout Percentage	Graduates
Bushwick	168	2,458	6.8	272
Canarsie	90	1,833	4.9	404
Clara Barton	48	2,296	2.1	488
East New York	82	1,037	7.9	143
Edward R. Murrow	39	3,207	1.2	608
Erasmus Hall	163	3,177	5.1	491
Franklin D. Roosevelt	200	3,497	5.7	551
George W. Wingate	204	2,741	7.4	343
James Madison	135	2,734	4.9	579
John Dewey	78	2,972	2.6	665
Midwood	60	2,829	2.1	650
New Utrecht	174	2,747	6.3	549
Paul Robeson H. S.*	16	871	1.8	0
Prospect Heights	365	2,919	12.5	271
Samuel J. Tilden	193	2,684	7.2	521
Sheepshead Bay	175	2,997	5.8	492
South Shore	129	3,173	4.1	680
Thomas Jefferson	220	1,859	11.8	182
William H. Maxwell	76	1,138	6.7	159
Brooklyn	2,615	47,169	5.5	8,048
Abraham Lincoln	113	2,188	5.2	343
Automotive	190	1,533	12.4	138
Boys and Girls	327	3,783	8.6	420
Brooklyn Technical	62	4,485	1.4	916
Curtis	84	1,738	4.8	324
Eastern District	429	3,465	12.4	403
Eli Whitney	33	171	19.3	112
Fort Hamilton	493	2,934	16.8	467
George Westinghouse	32	1,998	1.6	339
Harry Van Arsdale*	0	456	0.0	0
H. S. of Teleco. Arts*	20	837	2.4	0
John Jay	308	3,340	9.2	350
Lafayette	346	3,116	11.1	426
New Dorp	170	2,924	5.8	567
Port Richmond	111	2,250	4.9	498
Ralph McKee	39	826	4.7	132
Sarah J. Hale	245	2,401	10.2	285
Staten Island Technical	0	388	0.0	59
Susan E. Wagner	139	2,561	5.4	525
Tottenville	129	3,482	3.7	787
William E. Grady	62	1,638	3.8	231
BASIS	3,332	46,514	7.2	7,322

*Paul Robeson, Harry Van Arsdale, and Telecommunications did not have a graduating class in 1987-88.

Dropouts and Graduates From New York City High Schools, 1987-88
(continued)

School	*Dropouts*	*Oct' 87 Register*	*Dropout Percentage*	*Graduates*
Andrew Jackson	159	2,446	6.5	382
August Martin	60	2,076	2.9	395
Aviation	86	1,993	4.3	402
Bayside	97	2,463	3.9	539
Beach Channel	154	2,292	6.7	338
Benjamin Cardozo	93	3,164	2.9	675
Far Rockaway	221	2,226	9.9	379
Flushing	111	2,214	5.0	440
Forest Hills	119	2,701	4.4	697
Francis Lewis	135	2,458	5.5	469
Franklin K. Lane	336	4,535	7.4	610
Grover Cleveland	108	3,062	3.5	596
Hillcrest	142	3,849	3.7	717
Jamaica	97	2,749	3.5	593
John Adams	182	2,873	6.3	470
John Bowne	102	2,830	3.6	633
Long Island City	190	2,146	8.9	351
Martin van Buren	73	2,181	3.3	505
Newtown	261	4,357	6.0	833
Queens Vocational	113	1,292	8.7	193
Richmond Hill	168	1,932	8.7	327
Springfield Gardens	107	2,298	4.7	386
Thomas A. Edison	89	1,884	4.7	355
Townsend Harris	0	779	0.0	203
William C. Bryant	209	3,606	5.8	587
Queens	3,412	64,406	5.3	12,075
Bronx Regional	82	591	13.9	82
B'klyn College Academy	5	237	2.1	14
City-as-School	91	1,062	8.6	312
Concord	38	410	9.3	60
H. S. of Redirection	156	755	20.7	77
International H. S.	5	372	1.3	55
Liberty H. S.	14	433	3.2	0
Lower East Side Prep	75	794	9.4	106
Middle College	54	616	8.8	88
N.Y.C. Vocational Center	51	713	7.2	283
Pacific	65	648	10.0	87
Park East	88	531	16.6	63
Phoenix School	79	498	15.9	49
Satellite Academy	167	1,188	14.1	219
Street Academy	18	330	5.5	24
West Side	149	926	16.1	160
Alternative Schools	1,137	10,104	11.3	1,679
City-Wide Totals	17,704	260,932	6.8	42,989

APPENDIX E:

DROPOUTS FROM NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOLS, BY DROPOUT CATEGORY 1987-88

Dropouts From New York City High Schools, By Dropout Category, 1987-88

School	Employment Job Training, Military	Discharged to New Setting Without Confirmed Admission	Other Over 17	Not Found	Total Dropouts
A. Philip Randolph	1	4	39	1	45
Chelsea	4	1	70	1	76
Fashion Industries	17	7	70	7	101
F. H. LaGuardia	4	1	37	5	47
George Washington	26	35	282	12	355
Graphic Com. Arts	8	4	118	13	143
Humanities	8	4	55	6	73
H. S. of Art & Design	4	1	47	0	52
Julia Richman	13	11	354	5	383
Louis D. Brandeis	1	18	238	5	262
Mabel D. Bacon	1	19	43	4	67
Martin Luther King, Jr.	36	29	204	22	291
Math and Science	2	4	20	4	30
Murry Bergtraum	3	6	79	1	89
Norman Thomas	12	17	130	1	160
Park West	9	7	266	23	305
Seward Park	73	60	205	10	348
Stuyvesant	0	1	0	1	2
Washington Irving	11	28	161	7	207
Manhattan	233	257	2,418	128	3,036
Adlai E. Stevenson	29	14	537	5	585
Alfred E. Smith	7	2	84	4	97
Bronx H. S. of Science	1	7	2	0	10
Christopher Columbus	12	9	226	4	251
DeWitt Clinton	33	66	169	3	271
Evander Childs	24	18	322	16	380
Grace H. Dodge	3	7	52	15	77
Harry S. Truman	13	12	101	14	140
Herbert H. Lehman	9	1	193	7	210
James Monroe	27	9	215	7	258
Jane Addams	1	14	91	12	118
John F. Kennedy	34	20	325	10	389
Morris	15	26	173	3	217
Samuel Gompers	8	10	90	4	112
South Bronx	12	7	59	7	85
Theodore Roosevelt	22	41	374	2	439
University Heights	6	1	15	1	23
Walton	37	25	225	1	288
William H. Taft	10	79	121	12	222
Bronx	303	368	3,374	127	4,172

Dropouts From New York City High Schools, By Dropout Category, 1987-88
(continued)

School	Employment Job Training, Military	Discharged to New Setting Without Confirmed Admission	Other Over 17	Not Found	Total Dropouts
Bushwick	37	48	75	8	168
Canarsie	16	15	51	8	90
Clara Barton	8	5	34	1	48
East New York	13	9	50	10	82
Edward R. Murrow	1	0	33	5	39
Erasmus Hall	3	18	124	18	163
Franklin D. Roosevelt	5	4	169	22	200
George W. Wingate	1	6	188	9	204
James Madison	13	12	110	0	135
John Dewey	3	6	66	3	78
Midwood	3	2	52	3	60
New Utrecht	23	21	123	7	174
Paul Robeson H. S.	5	0	11	0	16
Prospect Heights	35	32	271	27	365
Samuel J. Tilden	11	41	136	5	193
Sheepshead Bay	13	11	136	15	175
South Shore	17	17	87	8	129
Thomas Jefferson	21	11	176	12	220
William H. Maxwell	5	7	59	5	76
Brooklyn	233	265	1,951	166	2,615
Abraham Lincoln	9	42	61	1	113
Automotive	28	4	158	0	190
Boys and Girls	59	103	148	17	327
Brooklyn Technical	4	13	42	3	62
Curtis	9	10	62	3	84
Eastern District	45	28	333	23	429
Eli Whitney	2	5	26	0	33
Fort Hamilton	23	10	460	0	493
George Westinghouse	5	0	25	2	32
Harry Van Arsdale	0	0	0	0	0
H. S. of Teleco. Arts	0	4	15	1	20
John Jay	64	9	234	1	308
Lafayette	18	11	315	2	346
New Dorp	8	38	116	8	170
Port Richmond	13	23	61	14	111
Ralph McKee	3	7	28	1	39
Sarah J. Hale	23	15	193	14	245
Staten Island Technical	0	0	0	0	0
Susan E. Wagner	8	20	107	4	139
Tottenville	6	18	105	0	129
William E. Grady	9	22	31	0	62
BASIS	336	382	2,520	94	3,332

Dropouts From New York City High Schools, By Dropout Category, 1987-88
(continued)

School	Employment Job Training, Military	Discharged to New Setting Without Confirmed Admission	Other Over 17	Not Found	Total Dropouts
Andrew Jackson	31	22	103	3	159
August Martin	6	5	45	4	60
Aviation	2	13	70	1	86
Bayside	8	26	61	2	97
Beach Channel	27	25	99	3	154
Benjamin Cardozo	10	43	29	11	93
Far Rockaway	9	0	206	6	221
Flushing	22	15	70	4	111
Forest Hills	3	28	82	6	119
Francis Lewis	11	2	117	5	135
Franklin K. Lane	24	29	265	18	336
Grover Cleveland	17	68	20	3	108
Hillcrest	15	17	100	10	142
Jamaica	12	21	62	2	97
John Adams	12	58	105	7	182
John Bowne	7	57	35	3	102
Long Island City	11	44	122	13	190
Martin van Buren	12	12	48	1	73
Newtown	3	50	191	17	261
Queens Vocational	6	2	105	0	113
Richmond Hill	19	25	120	4	168
Springfield Gardens	7	19	76	5	107
Thomas A. Edison	15	13	61	0	89
Townsend Harris	0	0	0	0	0
William C. Bryant	11	112	84	2	209
Queens	300	706	2276	130	3,412
Bronx Regional	3	2	74	3	82
B'klyn College Academy	0	0	4	1	5
City-as-School	8	12	71	0	91
Concord	3	12	23	0	38
H. S. of Redirection	9	6	141	0	156
International H. S.	0	2	1	2	5
Liberty H. S.	0	0	13	1	14
Lower East Side Prep	14	1	50	10	75
Middle College	3	27	24	0	54
N.Y.C. Vocational Center	5	6	40	0	51
Pacific	1	1	61	2	65
Park East	2	7	76	3	88
Phoenix School	2	0	77	0	79
Satellite Academy	8	23	132	4	167
Street Academy	7	3	5	3	18
West Side	10	8	131	0	149
Alternative Schools	75	110	923	29	1,137
City-Wide Totals	1,480	2,088	13,462	674	17,704

APPENDIX F:

ANNUAL DROPOUT PERCENTAGES FOR EACH NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOL 1982-83 TO 1986-87

Comparison of Annual Dropout Percentages 1982-83 to 1987-88

School	*82-83*	*83-84*	*84-85*	*85-86*	*86-87*	*87-88*
Art & Design	3.9	3.6	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.8
A. Philip Randolph	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.8	3.1
Chelsea	9.3	11.3	9.9	6.6	8.2	7.8
Fashion Industries	6.2	7.1	8.0	5.3	6.6	5.1
F. H. LaGuardia	2.3	2.2	1.9	3.2	2.1	1.9
George Washington	17.3	15.3	15.3	13.3	10.1	10.6
Graphic Comm. Arts	10.0	9.9	7.2	7.3	9.5	8.0
Humanities	N/A	2.6	2.1	3.0	3.6	4.2
Julia Richman	11.5	16.2	14.6	12.8	12.8	12.0
Louis D. Brandeis	17.1	20.5	13.5	11.4	10.1	10.3
Mabel D. Bacon	4.4	7.1	5.2	4.1	5.6	5.3
Martin Luther King Jr.	15.9	15.3	16.2	12.6	12.6	9.9
Math and Science	N/A	0.3	0.1	1.2	1.8	2.4
Murry Bergtraum	3.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	4.4	3.4
Norman Thomas	4.1	5.8	5.0	4.8	4.3	5.7
Park West	11.3	14.8	13.7	9.6	8.2	9.1
Seward Park	13.5	13.4	12.8	10.5	7.4	9.8
Stuyvesant	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
Washington Irving	13.2	13.5	11.7	10.7	10.1	7.6
Manhattan	9.8	10.6	8.7	7.3	6.9	6.8
Adlai E. Stevenson	15.8	11.7	9.8	9.1	10.6	12.6
Alfred E. Smith	3.5	11.1	13.1	5.8	5.1	6.9
Bronx H.S. of Science	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Christopher Columbus	13.1	11.7	10.6	12.2	8.3	8.9
DeWitt Clinton	16.4	12.6	8.4	4.4	13.9	6.3
Evander Childs	9.5	20.6	13.4	11.6	12.0	11.4
Grace Dodge	4.4	6.2	8.4	5.0	5.4	4.9
Harry S. Truman	6.5	5.3	6.2	5.7	6.3	6.3
Herbert H. Lehman	11.3	10.3	10.2	9.2	7.6	8.9
James Monroe	22.3	19.5	15.1	14.8	12.5	12.3
Jane Addams	7.2	10.2	7.3	7.8	4.8	7.2
John F. Kennedy	13.6	14.2	9.4	8.8	8.0	7.8
Morris	16.7	14.8	18.9	13.8	9.4	11.9
Samuel Gompers	10.4	7.5	6.2	4.7	7.6	7.6
South Bronx	16.4	13.3*	16.2	8.6	16.2	8.3
Theodore Roosevelt	24.9	11.5	26.1	11.3	11.8	12.8
University Heights	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.2	11.0
Walton	13.4	11.1	10.2	11.3	9.5	8.3
William H. Taft	13.8	19.3	19.7	17.8	16.8	8.2
Bronx	12.7	11.9	11.7	9.2	9.5	8.7

*The 1983-84 dropout percentage was corrected in compliance with recommendations from the 1987 New York State Comptroller's audit of the *1983-84 Dropout Report*.

Comparison of Annual Dropout Percentages
1982-83 to 1987-88
(continued)

School	*82-83*	*83-84*	*84-85*	*85-86*	*86-87*	*87-88*
Bushwick	21.0	17.6	13.6	10.5	7.8	6.8
Canarsie	10.1	9.5	8.6	5.8	4.8	4.9
Clara Barton	4.1	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.1
East New York	14.5	10.0	6.5	6.4	8.6	7.9
Edward R. Murrow	3.0	3.4	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.2
Erasmus Hall	11.5	14.7	9.0	12.4	6.6	5.1
Franklin D. Roosevelt	13.3	14.1	10.1	4.5	3.8	5.7
George W. Wingate	14.4	14.3	10.2	8.6	5.3	7.4
James Madison	12.1	9.3	6.8	5.4	4.9	4.9
John Dewey	3.4	3.6	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6
Midwood	6.3	5.9	2.9	3.2	3.1	2.1
New Utrecht	10.5	8.4	9.9	6.8	8.7	6.3
Paul Robeson H. S.	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	0.6	1.8
Prospect Heights	11.6	18.4	6.3	7.9	8.1	12.5
Samuel J. Tilden	6.1	9.1	6.9	5.7	5.5	7.2
Sheepshead Bay	7.7	14.0	7.1	5.7	5.3	5.8
South Shore	5.6	9.8	5.1	4.8	3.8	4.1
Thomas Jefferson	19.9	19.7	10.7	12.8	11.6	11.8
William H. Maxwell	9.6	9.8	9.5	6.3	6.4	6.7
Brooklyn	9.9	10.7	7.1	6.0	5.3	5.5
Abraham Lincoln	10.6	9.5	7.9	6.7	7.2	5.2
Automotive	4.7	8.1	8.7	6.2	8.9	12.4
Boys and Girls	20.0	17.5	12.9	10.0	12.9	8.6
Brooklyn Technical	3.0	2.6	2.3	1.3	0.5	1.4
Curtis	7.3	9.1	9.0	4.6	5.8	4.8
Eastern District	19.1	20.5	18.0	10.9	10.7	12.4
Eli Whitney	9.7	14.4	14.6	9.8	10.6	19.3
Fort Hamilton	14.9	14.9	11.6	9.7	3.6	16.8
George Westinghouse	1.9	6.5	2.3	3.1	3.9	1.6
Harry Van Arsadale	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
H. S. of Teleco. Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	0.8	2.4
John Jay	24.0	18.2	13.4	9.6	9.4	9.2
Lafayette	8.6	17.9	14.6	5.2	8.4	11.1
New Dorp	4.3	7.7	6.1	5.0	5.1	5.8
Port Richmond	4.5	6.4	3.9	4.7	4.0	4.9
Ralph McKee	5.3	4.1	3.6	3.3	2.9	4.7
Sarah J. Hale	20.0	14.3	12.2	6.0	13.1	10.2
Staten Island Technical	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Susan E. Wagner	5.1	5.9	4.3	4.4	3.5	5.4
Tottenville	4.7	6.3	4.6	3.7	3.8	3.7
William E. Grady	7.9	10.3	6.3	5.5	3.3	3.8
BASIS	10.0	11.0	8.8	6.1	6.5	7.2

Comparison of Annual Dropout Percentages
1982-83 to 1987-88
(continued)

School	*82-83*	*83-84*	*84-85*	*85-86*	*86-87*	*87-88*
Andrew Jackson	16.9	8.2	10.0	11.0	8.2	6.5
August Martin	3.3	2.8	2.7	2.5	3.9	2.9
Aviation	3.3	4.5	3.4	2.2	4.0	4.3
Bayside	4.5	5.8	7.0	5.7	1.5	3.9
Beach Channel	9.0	7.3	6.9	8.1	8.2	6.7
Benjamin Cardozo	5.4	4.5	4.6	4.2	2.3	2.9
Far Rockaway	8.4	9.5	11.0	8.8	7.2	9.9
Flushing	10.9	10.5	8.3	5.7	3.0	5.0
Forest Hills	6.0	6.1	5.0	4.1	5.0	4.4
Francis Lewis	9.4	8.7	8.0	6.1	5.9	5.5
Franklin K. Lane	17.2	14.3	12.7	11.8	10.7	7.4
Grover Cleveland	11.1	11.4	10.4	9.7	4.5	3.5
Hillcrest	7.7	7.1	5.9	4.8	4.6	3.7
Jamaica	3.9	5.5	4.7	3.2	2.2	3.5
John Adams	10.3	12.4	9.3	9.0	6.7	6.3
John Bowne	8.8	7.8	6.1	3.5	3.8	3.6
Long Island City	12.6	9.4	10.7	7.9	5.5	8.9
Martin Van Buren	4.0	3.0	3.4	2.6	2.4	3.3
Newtown	10.8	10.7	9.1	3.8	4.0	6.0
Queens Vocational	13.0	10.6	9.5	4.9	8.6	8.7
Richmond Hill	11.5	14.5	10.8	9.4	6.4	8.7
Springfield Gardens	9.4	12.5	9.6	7.2	6.6	4.7
Thomas Edison	6.8	9.2	6.3	7.5	7.5	4.7
Townsend Harris	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
William C. Bryant	14.7	11.1	10.8	11.1	5.6	5.8
Queens	9.6	8.9	7.9	6.6	5.2	5.3
Bronx Regional	14.7	20.2	20.1	16.4	5.6	13.9
B'klyn College Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0	2.1
City-As-School	23.4	19.3	15.7	9.2	8.7	8.6
Concord	6.7	9.7	6.0	11.7	12.6	9.3
H.S. Redirection	30.5	22.8	23.1	18.9	16.6	20.7
International H.S.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9	1.3
Liberty H.S.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.3	3.2
Lower East Side Prep	20.1	19.4	12.7	13.3	5.6	9.4
Middle College	12.0	10.9	5.8	6.7	5.2	8.8
N.Y.C. Voc. Center	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.3	7.2
Pacific	18.6	19.4	5.8	12.1	10.0	10.0
Park East	21.4	18.9	11.8	17.9	11.8	16.6
Phoenix School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.0	15.9
Satellite Academy	13.6	13.0	9.2	10.5	10.3	14.1
Street Academy	N/A	3.3	8.4	9.3	13.9	5.5
West Side	23.4	12.9	12.8	17.6	11.2	16.1
Alternative H. S.	18.9	18.0	12.5	13.0	9.2	11.3
All Day High Schools	11.4	11.4	9.4	7.9	7.3	7.5